

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A computerized telephony bridge unit has a Data Network
Telephony (DNT) Port and a Connection Oriented/Switched Telephony
(COST) trunk port, each associated with circuitry for receiving a placing
calls in the data format required by connected networks. The bridge unit
further comprises conversion circuitry for converting data dynamically
between network protocols compatible with each connected network.
10 Control routines executable on the computerized bridge unit are adapted to
receive a first call from one of the COST and DNT networks, to place a call
associated with the received call on the network other than the network on
which the call is received, and to dynamically convert data between a call
connected at one port and a call connected at the other port. The data
15 network can be the Internet, and the COST network can be any publicly or
privately switched dedicated-connection-oriented telephone network.
Association between calls between two otherwise incompatible networks
can be by a locally-stored lookup table, by negotiation with a caller, or by
retrieval of data from incoming calls. Methods for practicing the invention
20 are taught in the disclosure.

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